



News and Events in the 5th Grade

February 13, 2012

www.op97.org

Important Dates

Feb 16	ISAT Info Night (6:00-6:30 p.m. in the Holmes School library)
Feb 18	PTO Pancake Breakfast (9:00am-11:00am in the multipurpose room)
Feb 20	No School - Presidents Day
Mar 3	PTO Auction (6:00 p.m. at O'Sullivan's)
April 3	Science Fair

Dear Families,

If you haven't been in to Holmes School lately, you may not have noticed a couple of collections boxes we have out in front of the office. The first collection box is a tall, blue box for box top collection. We will be collecting box tops through Friday, Feb 24th. If you have any box tops you've been collecting at home, please send them to school with your child by that date. The second collection box is for, believe it or not, more books!! The Oak Park Food Pantry is looking for books of all kinds--children's books, cookbooks, adult books, young adult books or reference books. You can either drop the books off in the green bins located in front of the office, or send them to school with your child. Thank you for your generosity!

One Book, One School

After spending his whole life at Pet-O-Rama, Humphrey has a new home. In Room 26, Humphrey has met a wonderful substitute teacher, Ms. Mac, and a classroom full of spirited students who talk to him and take care of him. All was great until Mrs. Brisbane returned. Mrs. Brisbane does not like hamsters. In fact, she despises them. Luckily, he still has the students to take care of him during the day and on weekends. At night, he has Aldo, the night custodian, who sometimes gets lonely. Will Humphrey be able to help Aldo? You better read to find out!

Specials-Thank you to the 5th graders and classroom teachers for a wonderful specials night. We hope you all enjoyed yourselves!

Art - Most 5th Graders have artwork on display at the Oak Park Public Library through the month of December. Come see our surrealistic self-portraits completed in the style of Renaissance artist Arcimboldo Giuseppe. The artwork is downstairs in the "Art Alcove" in the Children's Section. www.owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com

Music - This week we will be finishing our game of music basketball (using xylophones) but we will also be playing recorders. Please make sure your child has theirs in school by Wednesday. If they cannot find theirs, recorders are now 6 dollars cash, check (to District 97) or can be purchased through the school store (under misc. payments).

Spanish - Students are working with the story *Carlos y los Tres Monstruos*.
www.mpoleski.blogspot.com

Library - Information can be found on the Holmes Library page on our school website, <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.



Reading/Literature

TREASURES

Comprehension Strategy: Generate Questions

Comprehension Skill: Problem and Solution

This week we begin Unit 4 in Treasures. The theme for Unit 4 is *Team Up to Survive*. The enduring understanding and essential question is "How can teamwork help in a difficult situation?" Students took the Unit 3 Assessment last week. These will be returned to students by Friday, February 17th. Please be sure to review it with your child, sign it and return it to school. Thank you.

LITERATURE CIRCLES

Students received their literature circle books and packets last week. They will have time in class during reading workshop to read and complete their role sheets. If they are not able to finish in class, they may have to work on it at home.

READING LOGS

Please be sure that your child is reading 30 minutes each night and responding to what they read in their reading logs. Students are expected to turn in their logs on Friday. At that time, your child's homeroom teacher checks for 5 complete entries.

Language Arts

Writing Focus: Rough drafts of the expository essay were due today. Students will have three class periods to publish their essays. The final drafts are due on Friday, February 17th.

Grammar Focus: Pronouns (I, you, he, she, it, me, him, her, we, you, they, them, us) and Antecedents (the noun or nouns to which the pronoun refers).

Math

Graded geometry and measurement unit tests were returned to students today. Please review the test with your child, sign it and have your child return it to his/her teacher. Students who scored below grade level (2 or lower) may correct the test and turn it in for regrading. This week, we will continue to work with data. We will be discussing appropriate sample size and surveys. We will continue to work with graphing and data landmarks. Later in the week, we will begin working with probability.

It is important that every 5th grade student has a calculator. Because of its fraction capabilities, we recommend the TI-15 calculator. We still have calculators available for purchase at a cost of \$16.

Science

Today we began a series of investigations involving paper lifeboats. Students constructed paper lifeboats and identified the variables that might affect the number of pennies a boat can hold without sinking. We will be working with lifeboats throughout the week, conducting controlled experiments, graphing the results, and making predictions from the graphs.. There will be a short quiz on Friday.

The Science Fair project hypothesis and experimental procedure were due last Friday. Students should now be working on setting up their experiments and collecting data. You can help by making sure that your student is making observations, taking photographs and collecting data on a regular basis. The next major deadline is the March 23 research paper due date. I will be periodically checking progress on Science Fair projects, but for the next several weeks, students should be working on their projects at home.

Social Studies

This week, we will continue work on our in-class project to complete a timeline of the American Revolution on our fifth grade bulletin board. We also will use an online game called Mission U.S. to learn about the American Revolution.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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